

## GOATS AND INSURANCE.

You'd Hardly Think the Two Were Related, but They Are.

Everybody knows something about insurance. Almost everybody carries some—life, accident, fire, fidelity, plate glass, partnership, burglary, marine or what not—and many occasionally find the payment of the regularly recurring premiums a heavy tax, however greatly they may appreciate the advantages of holding the policies. Everybody knows something about goats, but few would think of associating goats with insurance or of acquiring goats with a view to reducing the amount of their premiums. Yet a large contracting firm in Kansas City keeps a herd of Angora goats for that very purpose.

The company's yards cover many acres of ground, and the buildings and other equipment thereon represent an investment of several hundred thousand dollars. When the yards were first established the weeds and other vegetation on the property were considered by the underwriters to be dangerous fire hazards, so much so that the rates charged were almost prohibitive. It was agreed, however, that if the weeds were kept down the premiums would be greatly reduced.

But the cost of mowing the weeds and cutting down the undergrowth would have been in itself no inconsiderable item in the yearly budget. The company accordingly bought a flock of Angora goats and turned them loose in the extrahazardous yards. The goats now keep the yards cropped as close as a mowed lawn and not only save the firm a large amount annually in fire insurance premiums, but thrive so well on the objectionable vegetation and multiply so abundantly that they have actually returned a considerable profit on the amount of the company's capital that their purchase represents.—Detroit Free Press.

## DYNAMITE ACCIDENTS.

Some of the Stuff May Remain After a Charge Is Exploded.

"It is generally supposed that when a charge of dynamite has exploded it is all over—that the entire charge has been consumed," said a "hard rock" man who has worked in mines, in river tunnels and other places where high explosives are used. "This supposition, however, is not correct," he continued. "Sometimes particles of dynamite will be blown out with the broken rock. Then it becomes a menace to the workmen. It is a favorite practice of men who are waiting or resting to sit on a pile of 'muck,' as the broken rock is called, and to jab into it with a pick or a candlestick or some other steel thing, much the same as a Yankee will whistle while he talks or thinks. If the steel strikes one of these bits of dynamite that has not gone off, be it ever so small, it has started to run or because a fragment of it has been crystallized, there will be an explosion. The chances are that not one of the group of men sitting around will escape injury.

"Another frequent cause of accidents is that sometimes when the dynamite explodes and tears out the rock a small quantity of it will be left in the bottom of the drill hole, unaffected by the shock. If the drill hole that remains happens to be pointed in the right direction a lazy drill runner is likely to take advantage of it and start his new hole in the old one in order to make a record or save time. The instant his drill commences to thud on the unexploded dynamite it goes off. The steel is driven back through the tunnel of the machine, wrecking it and usually killing the drill runner. This explains many mysterious deaths that have been attributed to 'missed shots.'"

—New York Press.

**Original of Sam Weller.**  
The original of Sam Weller was Sam or Samuel Vale, who was well known as a London comedian who acted in the farce called "The Boarding House" and subsequently at Covent Garden theater. Sam Vale was noted everywhere for his Wellerisms, such as "Come on, as the man said to his tight boot," "I'm down on you, as the extinguisher said to the candle," "Where shall we fly, as the bullet said to the trigger," and "Let every one take care of themselves, as the donkey observed when dancing among the chickens." Sam Vale died in 1848.

**Clean Monday.**  
Clean Monday is peculiarly a Grecian institution. It is the day that ushers in the great Lenten fast at Athens, and the people go holiday making to eat Lenten fare on the hills around the city, while the shepherds and country people dance the ancient Greek dances in the old temples. This practice is termed "cutting the nose of Lent."

**Earning a Spanking.**  
Host's Youngest—Don't your shoes feel very uncomfortable when you walk, Mrs. Nyrche? Mrs. Nyrche—Dear me, what an extraordinary question! Why do you ask, child? Host's Youngest—Oh, only 'cos pa said the other day since you'd come into your money you'd got far too big for your boots.—London Telegraph.

**Musical Troubles.**  
Little Harold had just begun the study of music, and a visitor asked how he was getting along. "All right," he replied, "only I have trouble with the sharks and daps."—Chicago News.

**Right in His Line.**  
Mistress—Why, Norah, what are you doing on that policeman's knee? Norah—Sure, mum, he's a-restin' me?—London Tit-Bits.

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## MYSTIC ALGIERS.

It Is Not a City For Women Visitors to Explore Alone.

No foreigner knows what the Arab does. To few has it been given to understand what he thinks. Within his house he is as much master in Algiers as he is in Mecca, so long as he avoids the appearance of what the infidel calls evil and so long as he complies with certain demands, equally foolish and outrageous to him, in respect of registration, vaccination, sanitation and the like.

To any one who has ever seen for a moment behind the veil of native life there is something almost terrifying about the impenetrable mystery of these silent houses. Things happen there and human nature assumes aspects there of which the western world never dreams. I confess to being uneasy when I see careless and ignorant westerners—certainly when I see western women—walking alone in the native quarters of eastern towns.

Suppose one of those dark doors should open suddenly, the stranger be dragged quietly within and the door shut! That stranger might disappear forever without leaving a single trace. It would be useless to search unless the authorities were prepared to ransack every house to its most private apartments in a whole district, and to do that would be, if not to provoke a revolt, at least to stir up such dangerous unrest and hostility as to make it impossible.

What might happen to that stranger is best not considered. If his or her captors so chose there would be no more trace than marks the spot where a stone has fallen into the sea. Such an event is, of course, very unlikely, but it has horribly happened and might happen again.—Sir Henry Norman, M. P., in Scribner.

## A ROMANCE OF TRADE.

The Start and Rise of the Famous Krupp Gun Works.

The famous cannon foundry of Krupp, at Essen, was established in 1811 by Frederick Krupp, who abandoned a successful grocery business at the instigation of two brothers named Von Kechel in order to devote himself to the manufacture of cast steel.

The process was then unknown in Germany, and the article itself went under the name of "English steel" because it was imported from England. Krupp had money, and the Kechels had or pretended to have technical knowledge. The firm started its operations in an old water power mill at Altenessen. The experiments of the Von Kechels were unsuccessful. For nearly two years they did their best, but all their efforts to produce "English steel" failed. In the end Krupp decided to get rid of them after having spent one-half of his fortune in experiments and for the management of the work himself.

For a long time he had no luck, and it was only after some years of disappointment and labor that a satisfactory result was produced. It was under his son Alfred that the business first really began to flourish. Its exhibit at the London exposition of 1861 revealed to the world that a little known German firm was producing iron and steel that could not be bettered by the industry of any other country. Orders from the Prussian government followed, and the name and fortune of the firm were made.—Philadelphia Inquirer.

## Built in Blood.

The winter palace of the czars was built in blood. Almost every stone of the walls and every square yard of the plaster lining them cost a life. Millions had given the order that the palace must be rebuilt in a year, and what was human life against the despot's will? Six thousand men were kept at work day and night, with the palace heated at 80 R. to dry the walls rapidly, while the temperature outside was often 30 degrees below zero R. The men could only work with ice packs on their heads, and, experiencing a daily change of 60 degrees, they died by the score every day. By the end of the year the death roll was some thousands, but the palace was finished.

## A Wise Woman.

"Now, for \$2," announced the star gazer, "I will furnish you with a philter which will make your husband love you to the exclusion of all others."

"I don't think I'll invest," decided the practical housewife. "But if you have a philter which will make him bring home some of his salary on pay day I'll allow you a percentage on all sums realized."—Louisville Courier-Journal.

## Purely Speculative.

"I have always been interested," said little Bink, "in the utilization of waste. Now, where do you suppose all these burnt tires go in the end?" "I don't know," said the genial philosopher, "but if they go where most people consign 'em there must be a terrible smell of rubber in the hereafter."—Harper's Weekly.

## Consideration.

"Do you think women have a sense of humor?" "Yes," replied Miss Cayenne. "But I think they have become accustomed to restrain their laughter through a fear of hurting some man's feelings."—Washington Star.

## Pretty Near It.

Gibbs—One gets no diplomas in the school of experience. Dibbs—I don't know. The marriage certificate comes pretty near being one.—Boston Transcript.

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